

We claim:

1. A coated substrate comprising a strippable intermediate coating atop the substrate, and a strip agent-permeable coating atop the intermediate coating, wherein the strip agent-permeable coating is less strippable and more durable than the intermediate coating.
2. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a floor.
3. A coated substrate according to claim 2, wherein the substrate comprises a resilient flooring material.
4. A coated substrate according to claim 3, wherein the substrate comprises a vinyl or vinyl composite tile.
5. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a wall, ceiling, label, emblem, sign or vehicle.
6. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate coating comprises a metal-catalyzed acrylic finish.
7. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate coating has a strippability rating of 6 or more on a 7 point scale, corresponding to at least partial strip with softened finish in all areas, using a test strip agent made using a 25% water solution of a concentrate that contained 59% softened water, 6% sodium xylene sulfonate, 4.5% potassium hydroxide, 10% monoethanolamine, 0.2% tetrasodium EDTA, 10% ethylene glycol phenyl ether and 0.05% fluorosurfactant, and a 10 minute standing time.
8. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate coating has a thickness of about 5 to about 38 micrometers.
9. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat comprises a polymerized material.
10. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat comprised a one-part photopolymerizable material.
11. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat comprised a UV curable material.
12. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat comprises an acrylate, urethane or acrylated urethane.
13. A coated substrate according to claim 12, wherein the topcoat comprises an aromatic urethane.

14. A coated substrate according to claim 12, wherein the topcoat comprises an aliphatic polyester urethane.
15. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat is not metal crosslinked.
16. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat has a strippability rating
5 of 4 or less on a 7 point scale, corresponding to no more than severe chemical attack
on the topcoat and the onset of stripping, using a test strip agent made using a 25%
water solution of a concentrate that contained 59% softened water, 6% sodium xylene
sulfonate, 4.5% potassium hydroxide, 10% monoethanolamine, 0.2% tetrasodium
EDTA, 10% ethylene glycol phenyl ether and 0.05% fluorosurfactant, and a 10
10 minute standing time.
17. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the topcoat has a thickness of about
5 to about 38 micrometers.
18. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the intermediate coating or topcoat
comprise two or more different layers of materials.
- 15 19. A coated substrate according to claim 1, wherein the substrate comprises a floor and
the strip agent-permeable coating comprises a UV curable finish.
20. A strippable laminate finish kit, comprising one or more containers of a strippable
intermediate coating and a strip agent-permeable topcoat, wherein the topcoat is less
strippable than the intermediate coating.
- 20 21. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, further comprising a strip
agent.
22. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises
a one-part photopolymerizable material.
23. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises
25 a UV curable material.
24. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises
an acrylate, urethane or acrylated urethane.
25. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises
an aromatic urethane.
- 30 26. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein the topcoat comprises
an aliphatic polyester urethane.
27. A strippable laminate finish kit according to claim 20, wherein:
 - a) the intermediate coating has a strippability rating of 6 or more on a 7 point scale,
corresponding to at least partial strip with softened finish in all areas, and

- b) the topcoat has a strippability rating of 4 or less on a 7 point scale, corresponding to no more than severe chemical attack on the topcoat and the onset of stripping, using a test strip agent made using a 25% water solution of a concentrate that contained 59% softened water, 6% sodium xylene sulfonate, 4.5% potassium hydroxide, 10% monoethanolamine, 0.2% tetrasodium EDTA, 10% ethylene glycol phenyl ether and 0.05% fluorosurfactant, and a 10 minute standing time.
28. A strip agent concentrate containing a polar solvent that is denser than water, and a sufficiently low level of cosolvent or surfactant so that upon mixing with water a pseudo-stable aqueous dispersion forms which will phase-separate following application to a surface.
29. A strip agent concentrate according to claim 28, wherein the polar solvent comprises a phenyl alcohol.
30. A strip agent concentrate according to claim 29, wherein the polar solvent comprises benzyl alcohol.
31. A method for applying a finish to a substrate, comprising:
- a) applying to the substrate a strippable intermediate coating;
 - b) allowing the intermediate coating to dry or harden; and
 - c) applying a strip agent-permeable topcoat to the intermediate coating.
- wherein the topcoat is less strippable and more durable than the intermediate coating.
32. A method according to claim 31, wherein the topcoat is UV cured.
33. A method according to claim 31, wherein the intermediate coating is applied in two or more coats.
34. A method according to claim 31, wherein the topcoat is applied in two or more coats.
35. A method according to claim 34, wherein each of said two or more coats is UV cured before application of any further coat.
36. A method for removing a finish from a substrate, comprising:
- a) applying a strip agent to a laminate finish comprising a strip agent-permeable coating atop a strippable intermediate coating atop a substrate, wherein the strip agent-permeable coating is less strippable and more durable than the intermediate coating;
 - b) allowing the strip agent to permeate through the topcoat to attack the intermediate layer; and
 - c) removing the intermediate layer and topcoat without removing substantial portions of the underlying substrate.

37. A method according to claim 36, wherein permeation of the strip agent through the topcoat is enhanced by a mechanically roughening the topcoat prior to applying the strip agent.
38. A method according to claim 36, wherein removal of the intermediate layer and topcoat occurs in less than 10 minutes after application of the strip agent.
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